



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

March 27, 2007

The Honorable Patricial L. Birkholz, Chair  
Senate Committee on  
Natural Resources and  
Environmental Affairs  
806 Farnum Building  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable Joel Sheltroun, Chair  
House Committee on  
Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and  
Natural Resources  
1387 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

The Honorable Ron Jelinek, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-324 Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable George Cushingberry  
House Appropriations Committee  
351 Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Senators Birkholz and Jelinek and Representatives Sheltroun and Cushingberry:

Pursuant to Section 52506, PA 451 of 1994, attached is the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) report addressing forestry issues.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Schafer, Chief  
Budget and Support Services  
517-335-3276

Attachment

cc: Natural Resources Commission Members  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
and Environmental Affairs Members  
House Committee on Tourism, Outdoor Recreation  
and Natural Resources  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Members  
House Appropriations Subcommittee Members  
Ms. Jessica Runnels, Senate Fiscal Agency  
Dr. Kirk Lindquist, House Fiscal Agency  
Mr. Robert Emerson, State Budget Director, Department of  
Management and Budget (DMB)

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • Darnell Earley • Bob Garner • John Madigan • Frank Wheatlake

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) • (517) 373-2329

***Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors!***

Page Two  
March 27, 2007

Copies also sent to:

Mr. Jacques McNeely, DMB  
Ms. Jennifer Harrison, DMB  
Director Rebecca Humphries, DNR  
Mr. Dennis Fedewa, Chief Deputy, DNR  
Ms. Arminda Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR  
Mr. Dennis Fox, Chief of Staff, DNR  
Mr. Rodney Stokes, Legislative Liaison, DNR  
Mr. Dan Eichinger, DNR  
Ms. Lynne Boyd, DNR  
Ms. Jane Schultz, DNR

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Public Act 451 of 1994, Section 52506, Report**

The Department of Natural Resources (Department) is required to provide a report to the Natural Resources Commission and the legislature that details the following:

**(a) The number of harvestable acres in the state forest as determined by the certification program under section 52506.**

Forest Certification systems do not determine the number of harvestable acres. Systems evaluate whether harvesting is being conducted, in accordance with sustainable forestry principles that consider a broad range of environmental, social, and economic criteria.

**(b) The number of acres of the state forest that were harvested and the number of cords of wood that were harvested from the state forest.**

There were 43,169 acres of state forest harvested in Fiscal Year 2005-2006 that yielded an estimated volume of 622,457 cords.

**(c) The number of acres of state-owned lands owned or controlled by the Department, other than state forestlands that were harvested, and the number of cords of wood that were harvested from those lands.**

There were 540 acres other than state forestlands that were harvested in Fiscal Year 2005-2006 that yielded 20,237 cords.

**(d) Efforts by the Department to promote recreational opportunities in the state forest.**

Publicity for the state forest campground program was provided via various Department publications and the website.

The Department printed 100,000 Off-Road Vehicle guides and 100,000 Snowmobile guides.

**(e) Information on the public's utilization of the recreational opportunities offered by the state forest.**

The Department's website had 21,900,457 hits in 2006. Of these 9,472,151 used the campground search engine.

There were 46,857 camp registrations for state forest campsites in 2006, for a total of 149,742 registered campers. This equates to a total of 337,784 camper days (number of campers multiplied by the number of camp days stayed at a campsite) for the year.

There were 210,864 Snowmobile Trail Permits sold during the season (9/1/2005 through 5/31/06) and 185,776 ORV licenses sold in license year 2005.

**(f) Efforts by the Department to promote wildlife habitat in the state forest.**

Wildlife Division works jointly with Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management Division in the compartment review process to ensure wildlife habitat management goals are reflected in the approved stand level treatments. In Fiscal Year 2005-2006, Wildlife Division participated in reviewing 582,129 acres of state forests to determine wildlife management needs. The review process included considerations for habitat improvement and habitat planning on sites with exemplary natural features, endangered/threatened species, or natural areas contained within state forests. Additionally, Wildlife Division participated in completing the draft ecoregional plan for the eastern Upper Peninsula. This plan is currently under Department review prior to a public comment period. Draft plans are currently being developed for the western Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula.

**(g) Status of the plan and whether the Department recommends any changes in the plan.**

The Department prepared a draft "2006 State Forest Management Plan" that was released for public review and comment. The Department conducted six state forest plan public meetings across the state and a one day-long stakeholder meeting. Department staff are compiling and reviewing comments from those meetings. Staff are revising the plan and preparing a second draft for distribution and review.

**(h) Status of certification efforts required in section 52505 and, beginning in 2006, a definitive statement of whether the Department is maintaining certification of the entire state forest.**

The State Forest System was awarded forest certification in December 2005 under the auspices of Sustainable Forestry Initiative® and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Two certification audits were conducted in 2006: a special surveillance audit in March and the annual surveillance audit in October. Both audits verified that the Department is in compliance with SFI and FSC standards. The Department is monitoring and continually improving sustainable state forest land management.

The Department is maintaining Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest certification of the state forest system excluding minor acreages that are not under the exclusive, direct control of the Department, e.g. the Grayling Military Reserve and forest lands leased to Luce County (original 15-year lease in 1984 and one-time renewal in 1999).

**(i) A description of any activities that have been undertaken on forest pilot project areas described in section 52511.**

Four forest pilot project areas were established in 2006, as required by section 52511.